

# Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association



**RECEIVED**

**AUG 11 2000**

**CALFED Bay-Delta Program**

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FINAL PROGRAMMMATIC EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Cal-Fed proposal to take nearly 250,000 acres of production is unacceptable to the members of the Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association. Agriculture is an irreplaceable economic and environmental resource to California.

Agriculture cannot be the solution to the state's burgeoning population. In fact, agriculture production is not only vital to the state economy providing one in every 10 jobs, but in feeding the rapidly growing population.

We know Cal Fed's concern is environmentally based, but the proposed solution is shortsighted. Farming provides immense habitat in addition to its invaluable economic contributions. To assist growers in this process, Cal-Fed must provide an answer for a reliable water supply. That includes new water storage with adequate yield, to prevent the taking of additional water from farms in drought years.

The brief comment period and the lack of public hearings are also of concern to our members. Cal-Fed is setting a dangerous precedence for all of California agriculture, not just the Central Valley's.

Sincerely,

Steve Scaroni  
President

CC: Governor Gray Davis  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Congressman Duncan Hunter  
State Senator Dave Kelley  
Assemblyman Jim Battin

Supervisor Wally Leimgruber  
Supervisor Bill Cole  
Supervisor Tony Tirado  
Supervisor Tom Veysey  
Supervisor Dean Shores  
CFBF Rep. Judi Fitzgerald

P. O. Box 358 · 1000 Broadway · El Centro, CA 92244 · 760 / 353-1900 · FAX 760 / 353-3550

**C - 1 1 4 1 5 6**

C-114156